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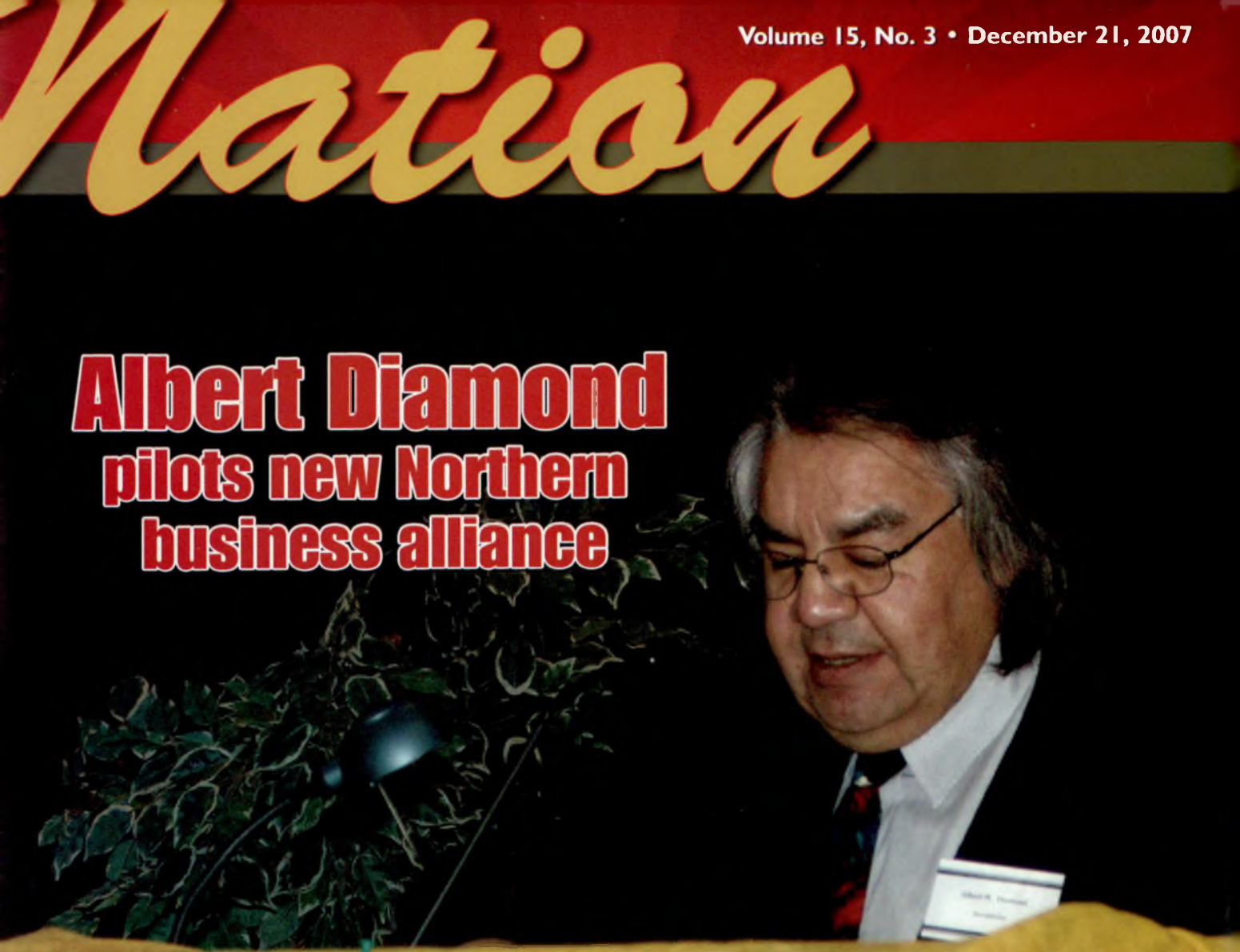
Nation

Albert Diamond pilots new Northern business alliance



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editorial

Faster than a speeding bullet

by Will Nicholls

Well, Christmas time is hitting Eeyou Istchee and all the gang here would like to wish you and yours the best for the holidays. I hope you all find what you want under the tree this year (unless of course it's too big to bring into the house).

I have always loved the season because it represents a time to share good times with family and friends. Once again let's make this holiday season a safe one. Watch out for the little ones and yourself.

When I was younger and had a lot of time on my hands I meditated on the concept of Santa and came up with the theory that he is faster than Superman. Think of it. Because of the time differences and Mother Earth's rotation Santa only has about 31 hours to deliver all his presents. Christmas only comes to the almost 92 million homes around the world that house children in a Christian family.

That works out to about 800 or so visits per second. He has to park the sled, hop down the chimney or pick the door lock, fill the stockings, toss the presents under the Christmas tree, eat and drink whatever goodies have been left out for him, lock the door behind him or go up the chimney, get back into the sled and it's off to the next stop.

Talk about your workouts. It's little wonder he only does this once a year. The rest of the year he is in recovery. It's a wonder he is a jolly old soul given his one night of backbreaking work. I guess this is the reason children rarely see Santa Claus except in department stores and during parades.

That's enough about old Saint Nick, except to say I hope you all follow his example and make the holidays a joyous time for all. Remember that while some may say charity begins at home this is the one time of year when it shouldn't.

Give to all those around you. Share not only presents but also your time and holiday spirit. A few words can go a long way to brightening someone else's day or night. You'll find it will brighten your holidays also.

As Charles Dickens said,

"Happy, Happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home!"

With that I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Even Santa has to pay to park his sleigh.

Contents

editorial

Faster than a speeding bullet 3

rez notes

The Christmas hunt 4

news

Grand Council slams MBJ 5

In brief 7

Community Holiday Schedule 2007 9

feature

The legend of Stone Canoe 10

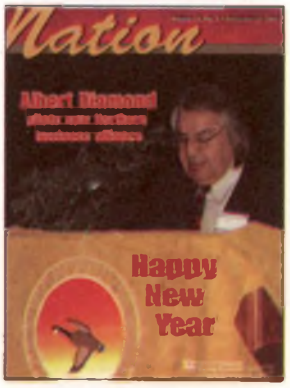
Northern business 15

A greener Christmas 19

Suicide prevention conference 21

Under the Northern Sky

Stewing over my memories 23



on the cover:
Albert Diamond

photo:
Will Nicholls

The Christmas hunt

The battle ensued for the last Wii game in town. Angry, stressed parents and virtual golf addicts were jostling like NHL enforcers in a popular downtown store in Montreal, beating the heck out of each other in the name of peace, cheery spirits and goodwill to all mankind.

The bout lasted a few minutes, as some smart shoppers high-tailed it to another store just across the street, hearing that just maybe a demo model may be up for sale. I quickly followed.

Meanwhile, the skies emptied themselves of all precipitation for days on end and the once crystalline snow turned slush slowed down the rapid pace of the city to a mere angry crawl, with taxi cabs furious with God's work and hating the weather forecaster as much as President Bush's war on their own lands across the seas and deserts. I just want to get to a mall, any mall, I mutter.

Days later, back in the frozen Arctic, the endless succession of office parties had me stuffed like the proverbial Christmas turkey. Patrons of many drinking holes congregated with a fervor not unlike that of the Roman days, just before the Christians took over. We slowly recovered for days, suffering revelations on just exactly what happened back there, with existential questions such as, am I still employed, did I tick off the boss again, dancing through some minds. This scenario is to be repeated for the remainder of the 12 days of Christmas, until all are sated with party going.

Nature, in the meantime, has kept her promise for a White Christmas. Skidoos have become popular again, the snowboard rules the slopes and everyone who doesn't hate winter is taking advantage of the white stuff everywhere. It looks like everyone will get their Christmas look this year, even California.

Meanwhile, back home, the calls of the cold dogs at the full moon have faded away from the fear that is keeping people off the mean streets of Great Whale lest a rowdy gang of polar bears come to snatch one away. This year, a record six big bears have snooped in and around town, much to the glee of a skillful Inuk hunter with his big bore gun, felling one still swimming in the rapid waters of the Great Whale River. Quite the eye, this guy.

Once the holidays set in, it'll be more time for going out on the land and enjoy the abundance of ptarmigans. It seems that everything is white this year, including the local wildlife.

The New Year, hopefully, will be full of many, many cooolldd ddays (please pronounce with chattering teeth), so that the imbalance of global warming will cease. We long for the festive seasons of our memories: of days when cold was still cool; when everyone wore the same type of parka; when skidoos roared around until it was too damn cold to zoom around at high speed with someone you want to impress and better to cuddle up with a hot cocoa and holiday movie instead.

Merry Christmas
& Good Cheer to everyone!

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Canada

Grand Council labels MBJ chair a 'racist'

Gérald Lemoyne says Crees are not competent to work as police officers

By Steve Bonspiel

The chairman of the Municipalité de la Baie James doesn't think Crees have what it takes to police their own territory. "They absolutely don't have the competence right now for the work that we want to give them," Lemoyne said in the December 3 edition of the Journal de Montréal.

The insult has angered the Grand Council of the Crees. "It was racist and intolerant," said GCC Executive Director Bill Namagoose.

Namagoose is currently preparing a case against the MBJ to try to get the Quebec government to repeal Bill 40, which gives outright control to the MBJ over much of Cree territory.

"It helps our case and it hurts his," said Namagoose. "The Quebec government really needs to acknowledge what Mr. Lemoyne is saying.

"We've been policing the Cree communities and surrounding areas for many, many years," Namagoose continued. "All the Cree constables have the proper training and are recognized as full-fledged constables under Quebec law. They have the same status as SQ officers and other police officers in Quebec."

The policing agreement signed between Quebec and the Crees this year has yet to be ratified and implemented in legislation adopted by Quebec's National Assembly. Lemoyne's comments were part of the MBJ's lobbying efforts to hold off on passing it through the National Assembly before Christmas.

Reached by *the Nation*, Lemoyne claimed his words were taken out of context. He denied calling Cree police incompetent. "I didn't say that and I won't say that. I think at this time I don't know what the training is to be a Cree policeman so I cannot say they are competent or not."

The Journal de Montréal also reported Lemoyne as saying that Crees are unable to speak French and that this would cause problems. "Imagine the kinds of trouble that could happen during an incident," Lemoyne told the newspaper. "It's the same as if the Kahnawake Mohawk Police patrolled neighboring municipalities. It doesn't make sense."

But Lemoyne says the paper wrongly interpreted his comments.

"The journalist said that, I didn't," Lemoyne told *the Nation*. "I said, 'A lot of them speak French, but if they don't, we'll have to see what we can do with that.' I don't want to fight with the Cree that's for sure. We live on the same territory."

Lemoyne said more talks between the Crees and various levels of government are needed before the policing agreement is put into effect. "At this time I don't think the Crees are ready to give this service on all the territory," Lemoyne said. "I'm not so sure the Cree police at this time can serve the whole region."

THEY ABSOLUTELY DON'T HAVE THE COMPETENCE

Gérald Lemoyne, chairman of the Municipalité de la Baie James

GCC Executive Director Bill Namagoose

IN THIS CASE I THINK LEMOYNE HUNG HIMSELF

Lemoyne expressed surprise after being informed that Cree police are trained just like Sûreté du Québec officers.

"I don't know about that," he said. "The only thing I ask of the government is to postpone Bill 54 until after Christmas time so we can discuss it more together later on. I don't think we have enough time before Christmas to do that."

But Namagoose said Lemoyne hasn't done his homework on the policing agreement.

"He's totally misinformed about the whole situation," said Namagoose. "We're not out to police the entire territory. The agreement we have with Quebec is collaboration between the Cree constables and the SQ. The Crees need the resources of the SQ and the SQ needs the resources of the Crees to police this territory."

Namagoose stopped short of saying what the Grand Council would do about Lemoyne's remarks.

"Sometimes you respond and sometimes you let the spokesmen hang themselves. In this case I think Lemoyne hung himself."

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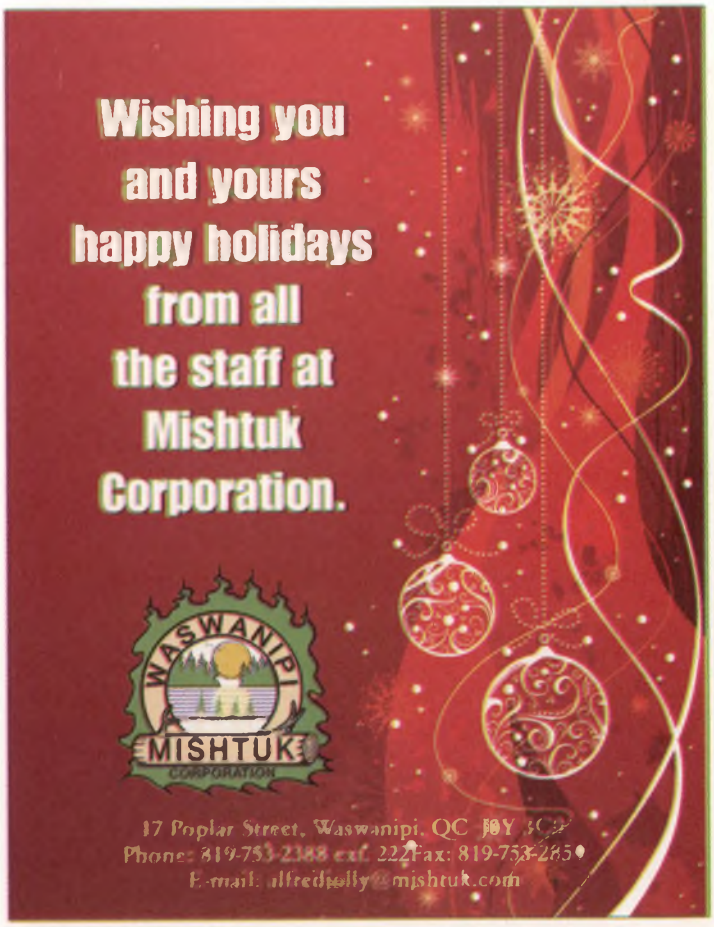

Photo by Ben Powless

Shirley Cheechoo (top row, third from the left) with other recipients on the steps of Parliament Hill.

Cheechoo honoured for life of art

Shirley Cheechoo, Moose Factory's celebrated film director, can now count a 2008 National Aboriginal Achievement Award among her accomplishments. The award recognizes Cheechoo's life-long commitment to the arts.

As an actor, writer, director and producer, Cheechoo has won top honours for her work at many film festivals, including San Francisco's American Indian Film Festival, the Santa Fe Film Festival, the Montreal First People's Festival and Luminaria.

She is also the founder of the De ba Jeh Mu Jig Theatre Company, a touring theatre group which performs in Ojibwe, and she has taught youth drama workshops throughout Ontario.

Cheechoo credits her mother, a medicine woman and storyteller, as inspiring her to tell her own stories through film and theatre.

Recently, Cheechoo has founded the Weengushk Film Institute, a film school designed to provide the support necessary for fledgling Native filmmakers to get off the ground.

Cheechoo is among the 14 achievers who will be presented awards at the ceremony to take place in Toronto, March 7, 2008.

Other recipients at the 15th annual event include the recently deceased Ojibway painter Norval Morrisseau, former NHL scoring star Reggie Leach and Innu activist Elizabeth Penashue.

The star-studded awards ceremony will be televised on both the Global and APTN television networks. Check your local listings for dates and times.

Wreath of Hope

Christmas has arrived early this year in Mistissini as the Wreath of Hope campaign has already surpassed its fundraising goal of $25, 000 to help needy individuals and families in the community.

"I know with the bake sale and the breakfast, I think we raised approximately $29, 000 that day," said Beverly Quinn of the Meechum store.

"There are always other pledges being made, we are receiving checks from entities as well as from individuals in the community," said Quinn as some individuals and organisations have continued to give after the fundraising events.

"Plus there is other places in the community that do fundraising and then donate part of their proceeds to the Wreath of Hope, for example the fire department. They raise money and then they bring it in separately, as their way of donating to the Wreath of Hope. You have other places that are doing some fundraisers for other things and they bring part of their proceeds over to the wreath of hope as well so, we continue to receive even after the holidays or after our initiative. Those are one of the two things that we do every year to raise funds but there are different places that do different things for the holidays," said Quinn.

With the help of the community's generosity, "we are able to help more families this year than we have in the past because the funds that have been raised are quite considerable," said Quinn enthusiastically, knowing that the holidays might just be a brighter time this year in Mistissini.

The Wreath of Hope campaign is still an ongoing effort, to make a contribution or to find out more the Meechum Reg'd, located at 136 Amanda Street, in Mistissini, drop by or call (418) 923-3217 to find out how you can help.

Holiday Band Office Hours

Community	Closed
Chisasibi	December 19-January 4
Eastmain	December 17-January 4
Mistissini	December 17-January 4
Nemaska	December 17-January 4
Ouje-Bougoumou	December 19-January 4
Waswanipi	December 17-January 4
Waskaganish	December 17-January 4
Wemindji	December 19-January 4
Whapmagoostui	December 19-January 4

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May the New Year bring you joy and prosperity.

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Community Christmas and New Year's Celebration Schedule 2007

Chisasibi

December 21st
6:00pm – Banquet Hall - Pageant
8:00pm – Banquet Hall - Christmas Concert
December 22nd
4:00pm – Banquet Hall - Social Bingo
December 27th
1:00pm - Family Parade - Starting point at Commercial Centre, Snacks after the Parade
5:00pm – Arena - Pitoune - Arena Lobby - Games for Elders
8:00pm – Banquet Hall - Fun and Games - Dance
December 28th
9:00am – Banquet Hall - Brunch
12:00pm – Sliding Hill - Outdoor Activities - Snacks & Coffee at Elders Camp
6:00pm – Arena - Men's Broomball
6:00pm – 9:00pm – Auditorium - Fun & Games for Children
8:00pm – Banquet Hall - Fun & Games for Adults - Dance
December 29th
12:00pm - Street Hockey - (Outside Arena)
- Outdoor Activities - (Outside Mitchuap)
• Remote Control Race (Ski-doos) • Toboggan Race • Snowshoe Race • Dodge ball
4:00pm – Arena - Skills Competition, Games at the Arena Lobby
December 30th
Brunch after Church Service
6:00pm – Sliding Hill • Bonfire • Skating • Sliding
December 31st
9:00am – Banquet Hall - Brunch
11:00am – Arena - Family Skating
3:00pm - Judging for Biggest Snowman Contest & Snow Sculpture Contest
6:00pm - Judging for Christmas Lights Contest, Banquet Hall
After the Church Service snacks and coffee will be served
• Cake Contest • Fun & Games • Dance
January 1st
9:00am – Mitchuap - Candies Throwing
1:00pm – Auditorium - Feast for Children
• Fun & Games • Draws for Prizes • Grand Prize
5:00pm – Banquet Hall – Feast (FORMAL DRESS)
• Fun & Games • Dance • Draws for Prizes • Grand Prize

Eastmain

December 23rd
Decorating Contest Judging Begins, Official Launch of the Christmas Festival, Bonfire (Near the Stajune Complex)
December 24th
Christmas Parade (starts near the Northern Store at 3 pm)
December 26th
Snowshoeing, Baseball, Decorating Contest Results
December 27th
Family Fun Night 1 (Stajune Complex Gymnasium)
December 28th
JBMHL All-Star Skills Competition, Welcome Visitors, Dessert and Games Night (Stajune Complex gymnasium)
December 29th
JBMHL All-Star Showcase
December 30th
7pm - Figure Skating Competition: Cash Prizes, Old time Hockey Challenge
December 31st
New Year's Eve Celebration, Local Fireworks Competition: Cash Prizes, Concert, Bonfire (Near the Stajune Complex)
January 1st
Community Pot-luck Supper, Eastmain Idol & Eastmain Comedy Night: Cash Prizes, Concert
January 2nd
1pm, sharp - All ages Floor Hockey
January 3rd
JBMHL Gala, Snowshoe Baseball (2 pm at the Fred Tomatuk Field)
January 4th
JBMHL Gala, All ages Dodgeball – begins at 1pm, sharp
January 5th
JBMHL Gala, Family Fun Night 2 (Stajune Complex Gymnasium)
January 6th
10 am to 1 pm - Chief and Council Community Brunch, Open to the Community
For information, to register for an event, or to volunteer your time, call the Recreation Department at 819-977-2262 ext.226.

Mistissini

January 31st
1pm – New Neoskweskau Sports Complex – Open for the purchase of raffle tickets
4pm - New Neoskweskau Sports Complex - Doors open for feast
5pm - New Neoskweskau Sports Complex - Community Feast & New Year's celebration, Draw for 6 major raffle prizes
For further information call Linda Awashish at 418-923-3461 ext. 265

Nemaska

Not available at press time.

Ouje-Bougoumou

Not available at press time.

Waswanipi

Not available at press time.

Waskaganish

January 1st
7pm – Gathering Place - Youth Gala
For further information call Stacey Bear at 819-895-2882

Wemindji

December 18th
Annie Whiskeychan Memorial School Concert
December 18-20th
Light Decorating Contest, Prizes: 1st- $1000, 2nd - $750, 3rd - $500, 4th - $250, Outdooring Tree Decorating Contest, Prizes: 1st - $400, 2nd- $300, 3rd - $200, 4th- $100
December 19th
Snow Day – Sliding & Snowmaking
December 20th
Santa Claus Parade – Float Contest, Cash Prizes: 1st- $1000, 2nd-$750, 3rd- $500, and 4th-$250
December 21st
Indoor Events: Photos with Santa, Cardmaking & Colouring Contest, Prizes to be determined
December 22nd
Mawabou Gardens – Skate with Santa
Mini-Mall - Caroling & lighting of the town Christmas tree
December 31st
3pm – 3am – New Year's Extravaganza and Community Christmas Concert – Indoor Games for all, Tribute Bands Concert, Raffle Draw, Prizes: Ski-doo, Entertainment Centre, Fridge & Stove, & Cash Prizes.
For further information contact Derek Mark at 819-978-0264.

Whapmagoostui

December 25 – January 1st
Christmas Festival, Indoor & Outdoor games, Cash Prizes to be announced
December 25th – Youth Centre – Community Feast
December 31st – To be announced
For further information contact Larry Wapachee or Stanley George at 819-929-3694.

feature

Stone Canoe

told by Job Kawapit, Whapmagoostui
translated and transcribed
by Brian Webb, Chisasibi

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His name was Stone Canoe. He had the knowledge of a shaman. He had two fully grown daughters, two little grandsons and was widowed. Men courted his daughters. But every time men came courting, Stone Canoe killed them.

Another family, a couple with two sons, lived close by. The older son was becoming a young man while the other son was still a young boy. When the parents paddled off for the hunt, the older brother cared for his younger sibling.

One day, the parents paddled off but did not return. Their disappearance was a complete mystery. The young brother cried often, missing his mother and father.

The older brother tried comforting him and made a ball for him to play with. When they threw the ball up in the air, it made a buzzing sound. The young brother had a great time with this ball. They lived near a large sandy cove of a lake and the two brothers often played ball on the beach.

Stone Canoe traveled in his canoe made of stone. He controlled his canoe by simply giving it instructions but the canoe was so slow. As Stone Canoe drifted along the lake, he saw the two boys playing ball on the beach. He instructed his canoe to go ashore. The canoe turned towards the beach and slowly cruised towards the boys.

Stone Canoe saw the ball and heard the buzzing sound when it was thrown in the air. As he came close, Stone Canoe called out, "Grandchildren, whose ball is that?" The older brother replied, "My younger brother's."

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"Who made the ball?" The older brother answered again, "I made it."

"Throw the ball over. I want to see." The older brother threw the ball towards Stone Canoe in his canoe. He examined the ball and commented on how expertly it had been made.

The older brother called out, "Throw back the ball." But Stone Canoe ignored his request.

The older brother repeated, "Throw back my brother's ball." Stone Canoe put the ball down in his canoe and said, "Come get it yourself."

The older brother waded into the water and leaped into the canoe to take back the ball. Stone Canoe grabbed the older brother and instructed his canoe to head back towards deeper water. The canoe turned around and headed for open water.

The little brother on the beach screamed for his older brother and began wailing. The older brother ordered Stone Canoe to go back for his younger brother but Stone Canoe refused. "Forget about him."

Stone Canoe instructed his canoe to go back home. The two brothers cried as the canoe drifted away. Stone Canoe had ways to use his shamanistic power to block the older brother from going back to his younger brother.

Finally, they reached Stone Canoe's camp. Stone Canoe ran up the beach and called out to his daughters, "Come see the young man I brought for you. He'll hunt for you." The two young women went down to the water's edge and saw a young man sobbing as he sat in the canoe made of stone.

The two women asked, "What's wrong?" He answered, "We left my little brother behind."

The two women sighed and mentioned that there would be no way for him to rescue his younger brother. "Our father is very cruel. We're sure that he'll try to kill you also."

That night, the young man tried to escape by using the canoe made of stone. He gave instructions to the canoe to drift out onto the lake. The canoe started to move for the open water. But Stone Canoe was aware of this and called out from the lodge, "My canoe, come back." The canoe turned around and beached itself. The young man couldn't escape.

The young man began planning a way to rescue his younger brother. He asked his new wives, "Does your father have any caribou antlers? I want to carve some wood." The daughters asked their father if he had any caribou antlers. "My daughters, I don't have any. Ever since your mother left us, I abandoned all my tools. But there is a place where I found caribou antlers. I could go get them if I wanted to."

The young man said to his wives, "I'll go with your father when he goes for the caribou antlers."

Stone Canoe and the young man cruised on the lake in the canoe made of stone. Stone Canoe had thoughts of killing his son-in-law. He told his son-in-law to sit right on the bow of the canoe. Stone Canoe commented, "That's what I do when I look for antlers." The young man knew Stone Canoe's plan.

As they cruised along the lake, Stone Canoe mentioned, "There are giant caribou here but their antlers are no good. But further that way, the giant caribou there will have beautiful antlers."

As they cruised along, Stone Canoe suddenly backed up his canoe. The young man fell into the lake but the young man was

ᓇᑎᖃᒪᓕᕆᔨ" ᓂᐱᒧᓐ ᐊᓇᓐ ᐊᑐᔪᓂᓐ ᑲ ᐃ"ᑕᓐ. ᓇᑎᖃᒪᓕᕆᔨ". ᐊᓂᑕ" ᑲ ᓇᑎᖃᒪᓕᕆᔨᓐ. ᑲ ᐊᑎ ᔅ"ᔅᑐᐅ"ᑭᐱᔨᑦ.

·ᐃᔅᐱᒪᑦ ᐊᓂᔅ" ᐅᑐ"ᐊᓂᔨᓂ". ᐊᓂᑕ" ᑲ ·ᐊᐱᓇᓴᓐᑎ ᐃᔅᐱᑦᓴ ᐞ·ᑕ·ᐊᐱᔨᔪᓐᑎ ᒪᓂ". ·ᖃᑕᑦ, ᑭᔅ ᓄᔪᓂᔪᓂᑎᓂᓄᓐ, ᐊ·ᐊᓂ ᐊᓂᔅ" ᐅᑐ"ᐊᓂᔅ"? ·ᖃᑕᑦ ᐊᓂ ᐞᔅᔨᔨᐅᑦ, ᓂᔪᓂ ᐅᔅ" ᐅᑐ"ᐊᓂ". ᐊ·ᐊᓂ ᑲ ᐅᔪ"ᐊᑦ? ᓂᔨ ᐅᔅ" ᓂᑭ ᐅᔪ"ᐃᒪᔨᓂ", ᐃᑕᓂ. ᑭᔪᓂ ᒪ, ᑭᔪᓂ ᒪ ᑎᔪᓂ ᐅᑐ"ᐊᓂᔅ, ᓂᑫ ·ᐊᐱᑎᒪᔨᓂ". ·ᐃᔅᐱᓇᓕ·ᐊᑦ. ᑎᔅ"ᓄ ᐊᔅᑫ ᑕᔨᔪᔨᓂ".

ᓂᒥ ·ᐃ" ᑎᔅᓂ. ᑭᔪᓂ ᓂᔪᓂ ᐅᑐ"ᐊᓂᔅ". ᓂᒥ ·ᐃ" ᑕᔨᓄ. ·ᖃᑕᑦ, ᑭᔪᓂ, ᑭᔪᓂ ᓂᔪᓂ ᐅᑐ"ᐊᔅᓂ". ᑭᑎᔅᓇᒪᑦ ᐊᓇᑎ" ᑭᓴᓂ ᐊ ᐊᐱᑦ, ᒪᐅᔅ" ᐅᑎᓇᓂ ᑎᔪᓂ ᐅᑐ"ᐊᓂᔅ". ᐅᑎᓄ. ᐃᔅ ᔅᓴᔨᓇ"ᑕ·ᐊᑦ ᐅᔅ ᐅᑭᒪᓂᔅᑎᔨᓄ, ·ᐊ" ᐅᑎᓇᒪᑦ ᐊᓇᔅ" ᐅᑐ"ᐊᓂᔨᓂ" ᐅᔪᓂ". ᑎᔅ ᒪᒪ"ᑎᔨᓂᑦ. ᒧᓂ·ᐊᐱᔨ" ᓂᑭᒪᓄ, ᒧᓂ·ᐊᐱᔨᔪᓂ". ᒧᓂ·ᐊᐱᔨᔪᓂ.

ᐊ ᐃᔅᓂ·ᖃᔨᓂ" ᐊᓇᔅ" ᐅᔪᓂ". ᑎᔅᑐᔨᓂ". ·ᖃᑕᑦ, ᐊᖃ ᓂᑭᐯ "·ᐊᑕᓄ ᑭᔨ·ᕀ ᓂᔪᓂ. ᐅᑎᓇᑕᓄ ᑭᔅ". ᓂᒧᔨ, ᓂᒧᔨ, ᖃᖃ ᐃᔅᐱᐸᑕᔨᒪ ᑎᔪᓂ. ᐊᖃ ᐃᔅᐱᐸᑕᔨᒪ. ᑢ·ᐊᐱᔨ" ᓂᑭᒪᓄ, ᑢ·ᐊᐱᔨ". ᑎᔅᑐᑦ ᑭᔨ·ᕀ ᐅ ᐊ·ᐊᓂᓂ. ᒪ"ᑕᑦᓄ ᑭᔨ·ᕀ ᐅᔅ" ᐅᑐᔪᓂᔨᓂ. ᑭᔅ" ᐅ ᐊ·ᐊᓂᓂ ᑎᔅᑐᑦ. ᑕᑦ ᑭᑎ ᑢ ᐱᔪ"·ᐊᑦ ᑭᔨ·ᕀ, ᐊᖃ ᒥᑦ·ᐊ ᑎᑭ ᐊᐅ·ᐃᔅᐱᒪᓂ ᐅᔅ" ᐃᑐᔪᓂᔨᓂ ᐊᑦ ᓇᑦ".

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in his element. As Stone Canoe drifted away, he called out, "Giant caribou, I give you my son-in-law for you to eat."

The young man simply sank down and walked on the lake bed towards shore. The young man emerged from the water and began walking on dry ground. He walked towards a swampy area and a giant yellowlegs bird cried out, "I see a man!" He waved to the giant bird, "Be quiet." The giant bird went silent.

The young man took off his coat and stuffed it. He propped it up in the middle of the swamp. He told the giant bird to cry out now. The giant yellowlegs cried out, "I see a man!"

Just as the giant bird cried out, a giant caribou rushed out of the forest and charged towards the young man's stuffed coat. The young man shot an arrow at the giant caribou from his hiding place. The giant caribou was dead. The young man hacked off the antlers and cut off some of the fat from the giant caribou. He headed back for Stone Canoe's camp.

The young man arrived back at camp and told his adopted sons to eat the caribou fat along the beach. "Go wait for your grandfather to come back." Stone Canoe took a long time to come back because his canoe was so slow.

Stone Canoe came into view of the camp. He saw his grandsons on the beach eating something. He called out, "Grandchildren, what are you eating?" The little boys replied, "Our father brought back some caribou fat and that's what we're eating."

"What? Your father? It can't be your father. The Giant Caribou must be tossing around your dead father by now." The little boys insisted, "It's true. Our father came back."

Stone Canoe couldn't believe it. He ran up towards the lodge. As he opened the door flap, he saw his son-in-law sitting inside working on the caribou antlers. Beside the young man were snakes slithering around. Stone Canoe was stunned.

The two women noticed his stare and commented, "Why is our father so surprised?" He answered, "I'm not looking at you. I'm looking at those slithering around." The young man began carving wood to make a canoe.

In the past, the air bladders from fish were used as glue. As the young man finished making his canoe, he needed some glue. The young man said to his wives, "Ask your father if he has any fish air bladders."

They asked their father but he answered, "I don't have any. Ever since your mother left us, I abandoned all my tools. But there is a place where I got air bladders from sturgeons. I could go get them if I wanted to." The young man said that he would go with his father-in-law to get the fish air bladders.

Stone Canoe and his son-in-law left in the canoe made of stone. They cruised along the lake. He told his son-in-law to sit right on the bow of the canoe again. "That's what I do when I look for fish air bladders," he said.

As they cruised along, Stone Canoe mentioned, "There are sturgeon here but their air bladders are no good to use. We'll reach the other ones that have good air bladders." The two of them cruised along the lake.

Stone Canoe forced his canoe to jolt back. His son-in-law splashed into the water. "Sturgeons, here you go," said Stone Canoe. "I give you my son-in-law to eat."

ᐃᑲ ᐊ ᐊᑎ ᑎᑦᒃᑲᒋᓕᖅᑲ ᐊᓐᓇᑎ". ᐊ ᐊᑎ ᕿᒧᖅᑕᑦ ·ᐃ ᐅ ᐃᓕᓴᓂ ᐊᓂᑕ". ᐃᑲ ᐊᓂᑕ" ᒥᔅᑎᔨᔨᓂ ᐊᓂᑕ" ᐊ Δ"ᑎᔨᓂᓴᑦ. ·ᐊ"ᒋ ᒪᑐᓴᑦ" ᐊᓂᑕ" ᒥᔅᑎᔅᔅᔨᓂ". ᓂ·ᐊᐱᒪᐠ ᐃᓕᓴᓂ, Δ·ᑕᓴᓂ". ᐊᓕᓛ·ᐊᔅᑎ"ᐊᒧᒍ·ᐊᑦ. ᐊᑲᑎᑐ", Δᑕᐠ. ᓂᑦ·ᐊᵊ, ᐊᓴᓂ".

ᐊᔨ ᐃᑲ ᓴᑎ"ᐅᒪᑦ ᐊᓂᑦ" ᐅᑎᔨᑦ". ᑎᒋᒪᑦ ᐊᓐᓇᑎ" ᒥᔅᑎᔨᔨᓄᑲ ᑕᐅᔅᒋᓄᑲ. ᐊᔨ ᐃᑲ ᐃᓕᔨ ·ᐃᑲᐱᒋᐠ ᐃᓕᓴᓂ ᐊᓴ", Δᑕᐠ. ᐊᔨ ᐃᓕᔨ ·ᐃ·ᑕᓴᑲ". ᐊᔨ ᐃᓕᔨ ·ᐃᑲᐱᒋᐠ ᐃᓕᓴᓂ. ᐅᑦ ᑲ Δ·ᑕᓴᑲ", ·ᐊ"ᒋ ᒍᔅᐅᑦᑭᐱᓴᓴᑲ" ᒥᔅᑎᑎ"ᔨᑦ". ᑎᒋᓐᓴᑲ" ᐊᓂᑦᓴᓂ" ᐅᑎᔨᑦ". ᑲ ·ᐊᐱ·ᑲᑎ"ᐅᑦ ᑭᔨᓂ, ᐃᑕᓴᒪᐠ. ·ᕿᒪᑦ ᐊᓂᑦ" ᒥᔅᑎᑎ"ᔨᑦ". ᓇᐱ"ᐊᑦ. ᐃᑕᓴᒪᐠ" ᐊᓂᑦᓴᓂ" ᐅᑎᔨᑦ". ᐃᑲ ᐃᓕᔨ ·ᐃᑲᐱᒋᐠ ᐃᓕᓴᓂ. ᐅᑦ ᑲ Δ·ᑕᓴᑲ", ·ᐊ"ᒋ ᒍᔅᐅᑦᑭᐱᓴᓴᑲ" ᒥᔅᑎᑎ"ᔨᑦ". ᑲ ·ᐊᐱ·ᑲᑎ"ᐅᑦ ᑭᔨᓂ, ᐃᑕᓴᒪᐠ

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ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL
THE NORTHERN BUSINESS COMMUNITY LOOKS TO WORK TOGETHER

By Will Nicholls

December 5 saw the Fifth Annual Cree Nation/Abitibi-Temiscamingue Business Exchange Day held by the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Temiscamingue Economic Alliance. If you think that's a mouthful, it was also an eyeful to see all the networking going on.

You could almost feel the money moving as participants gathered to plan for the next phase of Hydro-Quebec's development. Millions are at stake and Northern Quebec wants a serious piece of the action.

This time, however, Crees and their northern neighbours have united to ensure the economic spin-offs are widely shared. The event was an opportunity to brainstorm ways of working together to maximize benefits for the north. Many had never met before this Business Exchange Day, which was designed to change that sense of isolation.

Air Creebec president Albert Diamond wears another hat as president of the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Temiscamingue Economic Alliance. "As you know we do not get enough opportunities to meet face to face with those that we do or want to do business with," said Diamond.

Diamond's co-president, Guy Barif of the Comite de maximisation des retombees economiques en Abitibi-Temiscamingue (Comaxat), said the initial focus is on economic spin-offs from Hydro-Quebec projects.

"It would not have been possible without the immense collaboration of the Cree Nation business people and the harmonious relationships that have evolved with them," said Barif. "This fifth meeting of the

Business Exchange is an excellent opportunity to consolidate, to exchange and develop favourable links for all."

Grand Chief Matthew Mukash was unable to make his planned appearance at the event due to bad weather in Whapmagoustui, forcing Albert Diamond to deliver the Grand Chief's prepared speech.

"As many of you know, this event is designed to promote business partnerships, relationships, and collaboration for businesses in our region. In the past, this event has been extremely well attended, bringing together the Cree entrepreneurs, leaders and communities with the non-Cree business community in Northern Quebec," said Diamond on behalf of Mukash.

Mukash pointed out that the New Relationship deal with Quebec lead to many of the opportunities between Crees and other residents of Eeyou Istchee.

"In the region there is a great potential for business, development and innovative enterprise. However, this is true about many places. What will make Northern Quebec different? Our ability to work together, to respect each other for what we bring to the table, and our commitment to the longevity of our ventures. The testament of this annual event is that we are not here for a quick buck. We are here for sustainable development that will continue to reap rewards for the region for generations to come. We are here for capacity building in our organizations, and the region which means a greater economy. We are building a labour force of skilled and experienced professionals and workers – a foundation of human resources."

Mukash said the North needs to go beyond local markets and start thinking globally. "Like with other aspects of our lives, the only restrictions we have to economic growth are the ones we place upon ourselves."

Mukash encouraged everyone to look to the future and envision new types of development to raise living standards and build a sustainable economy.

Normand Bechard, Directeur of the Eastmain Project for Societe d'energie de la Baie James (SEBJ), said the Eastmain Project and the Rupert River Diversion have already seen benefits for both Cree and non-Cree businesses. He said this will continue until 2012 when the projects are completed.

He said the Crees have been an important part of it since the beginning.

"Right from the design phase, we have diligently worked to ensure that Cree traditional knowledge, as well as the concerns of the Cree and non-Cree populations of James Bay, are incorporated into this major undertaking, the project of the

> "We do not get enough opportunities to meet face to face with those that we do or want to do business with."
>
> Albert Diamond

> Honouring our mutual commitments and undertakings is not always easy; it requires openness, honesty and mutual respect on the part of everyone involved.
>
> Normand Bechard

decade. This principle applies to the environment – a key issue we take to heart and address on a daily basis – as well as to the economic spin-offs that can be generated in the host communities, an issue that is as important to us as it is to our regional partners," said Bechard.

Bechard said the Boumhounan Agreement provides for contracts worth at least $240 million to be awarded to Cree businesses through direct negotiation. He acknowledged some problems in this process.

"Honouring our mutual commitments and undertakings is not always easy; it requires openness, honesty and mutual respect on the part of everyone involved. Until now, however, the solid business relationship we have forged has allowed for the growth of Cree businesses that, as we speak, are carrying out major work and subcontracting to regional enterprises, and are even working with non-Cree companies to increase their production capacity, as is the case with the Wemindji–Norascon partnership and with Vieux-comptoir, the result of an association between Wemindji and Massénor," said Bechard.

He said 20 Cree companies have been awarded 30 contracts while other businesses in Abitibi-Temiscamingue have won about 20 contracts. This, he felt, was a good beginning.

Another SEBJ worker said the work is ready to start on the Rupert River Diversion aspect of the project.

Companies signed up for the Business Exchange Day included Wynibec Enterprises Ltd., Farrington Media, Ouje-Bougoumou Enterprises Ltd., MacLeod Services Reg'd, Cree Nation of Mistissini Economic Development, Cree Native Arts and Crafts, Waska Resources, Matoush Enterprises Enr., Chisasibi Business Service Centre, James Bay Cree Communications, Fort George Island Tours, Cree Human Resources Dept., Tawich Development Corporation, Wemindji Telecommunications Association, Beesum Communications, Wabannutao Eeyou Development Corp., Stajune Construction, Waskaganish First Nation, Creeco, Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, Eskan Company and Vieux Comptior Construction.

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Being greener than your Christmas tree

By a Nation contributer

With Christmas approaching, we are dreaming of all the wonderful things the season brings. We take time from our daily schedules and work to spend the holidays with our friends and families. The focus of our thoughts is on the importance of those around us, and the spiritual significance of this time of year. Many of us have taken some measures in our lives to be a bit more responsible for our environment and to diminish the impacts our activities have on the world. A little recycling or choosing reusable bags and containers can make a difference if we all do it. The energy expended and chemicals employed in creating new containers contributes to the loss of the natural environment. Here are some ways over the holiday season you can make a difference, and feel better about your impact on the earth.

- No one would argue that Christmas lights and trees add something beautiful to the holidays, but they can be put on timers or we can set a schedule for turning them on or off. This would reduce the amount of energy we use over the holidays, and we can still appreciate them in the evenings while we are awake. If you go a step further and turn off computers at the end of each day the energy you save will add up over time.

- When we think of Christmas presents, we think of wrapping paper. A new trend has been to use bags, which can be folded and reused again the next year by simply replacing the card. I have even reused bags in the same Christmas as I couldn't imagine folding it for another use. We could burn the paper, but the chemicals used in the design emit a black smoke, which can't be good for the air we breathe. Think of creative ways to decorate presents under the Christmas tree each year. If you just have to have wrapping paper, try to find the recycled type. This would work well for Christmas cards as well.

- Instead of paper greeting cards, you could send e-cards this year, or even revamp an old tradition of actually visiting or calling friends and family. Just because Quebec is a world leader in pulp and paper production doesn't mean we have to be a leader in consuming our forests.

- Since we are almost all taking time off work, let's try to increase the amount of carpooling we do when we have to go somewhere or reduce the number of trips we make to the store. We have extra time, so why not make lists and plan trips we feel we need? Why don't we look for some outdoor activities that don't require driving? The savings in gas will add up, and the non-driving activities will benefit your health.

- When choosing gifts, think about the amount of plastic packaging they come in. In the past, we had homemade toys and clothes. Now it seems like we have to have these thick plastic molds that we cut and throw away into some land fill. If we want to make a difference, we could remove them from their packaging while we are in places that recycle these products. We could put them in things that do not require packaging. It's still new, and it won't end up buried in our lands.

- With toys or electronic equipment, choose rechargeable batteries. While it might not save on the energy directly, it will mean fewer disposable batteries going into the garbage. The metal and chemical components of a battery may have lost their electrical charges but not their toxicity. Most phones, games and other electronics have built in rechargeable batteries, but for those that don't or if you are planning to go wireless on your keyboard and mouse, consider this option.

- If you are planning a break from cooking, it's better to treat yourself and eat at the restaurant rather than getting takeout. Takeout usually comes with plastic bags, plates, utensils and condiment packages. There is less waste when you can wash plates, utensils and the condiments are stored in reusable containers.

- A way to reduce water consumption over the holidays is to turn the faucet off when you are scrubbing dishes or brushing your teeth. Only turn it on when you need it to rinse. When you first turn on the water to get it cold, try putting a container under the faucet while it is warming up, and use the water to water your plants.

- Finally, one of the biggest consumers of energy in our homes is heat. So, if we want to reduce electricity bills, we need to think of greener ways to heat our homes. Since we have more time, we could use some of it to make wood fires in our stoves, and turn down the thermostat a bit when we are outside doing activities with our families. We also seem to do much more cooking during the holidays, so when you finish cooking leave the oven door ajar a bit to let the heat out to warm the room. Though if you have small children around be sure to watch the kitchen.

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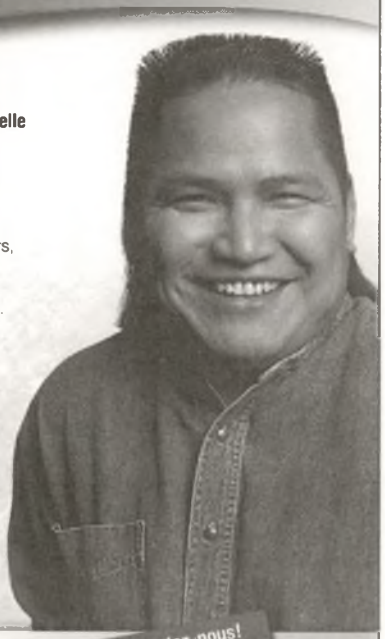

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Lust for life

Suicide prevention conference focuses on hope

By Amy German

Since 2001, Dialogue for Life, the First Nations and Inuit Suicide Prevention Association of Quebec and Labrador has been congregating annually to work on strategies for suicide prevention, support frontline community workers and to facilitate group healing.

This year's event, held at the Hotel Delta Montreal December 4-6, was themed "Honouring Families, Honouring Life."

"We are celebrating life and promoting life and family is a part of that," explained event organizer Norman Daragon. "So we saw a lot of family healing and workshops on family grieving after suicide."

The event has grown enormously over the years, initially starting with 250 delegates. This year about 600 attended, an increase that can be attributed to the enormous youth presence along with the usual crowd of frontline workers in suicide prevention, natural helpers, police and social workers.

"During our closing ceremonies where we stand in circles we saw that the youth was really missing last year," said Daragon. As well many delegates brought along their own children, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere.

The conference focused on healing sessions for workers who feel very stressed out and isolated when someone they try to help commits suicide. "In many communities, workers feel alone and are sometimes overwhelmed," said Daragon.

There were also various different types of traditional and non-traditional healing sessions for those whose lives had been affected by suicide and sessions that were devoted to aboriginal pride and culture.

"People from all nations can open up and nobody judges anybody here. It is easier to open up when you have people who can relate to what you are saying. Only then can you heal yourself and work on the trauma that happens," said Daragon.

Various awards honoured professionals, youth and families who have made contributions to their communities. One of those honoured was 15-year veteran of the Mistissini police force, Tammy Coon.

> "I WAS EMBARRASSED OR ASHAMED OR SCARED TO TELL PEOPLE THAT MY MOTHER COMMITTED SUICIDE."

"I won the police officer award, I was so honoured to accept the award and I am just so excited today thinking about it," said Coon. "I went to the workshop for stress in police work and I have been to other trainings involving stress management and I have learned to be open-minded and to see things better," said Coon.

"It's been very helpful," said one social worker from a Cree community who requested anonymity for this article. She came to the conference for both personal and professional reasons, having lost her own mother to suicide three years earlier.

"I am just like a survivor of suicide and I think that I was embarrassed or ashamed or scared to tell people that my mother committed suicide because it's my mother. It's usually teenagers but when it comes to someone like a mentor, someone that you look up to, it's really difficult," she said. "So I am a survivor and my kids are survivors too. Here I learned how to approach them and how to tell my kids about what my mother did."

John Matoush, the Cree Youth Grand Chief, said he thought the conference was a good experience despite the morbid subject matter.

"For sure the stories there are so real and some of them are quite devastating to hear," Matoush acknowledged. "But the issues that we have been discussing and the stories we've heard also give you the reality of the other nations and what they are dealing with. They are similar to our stories in the Cree Nation. I think the important thing here is the hope we feel. There is a lot of hope within the conference and there is a lot of hope in the stories that are being told."

Mistissini Police Officer, Tammy Coon and her foster child

Youth Grand Chief, John Matoush and family

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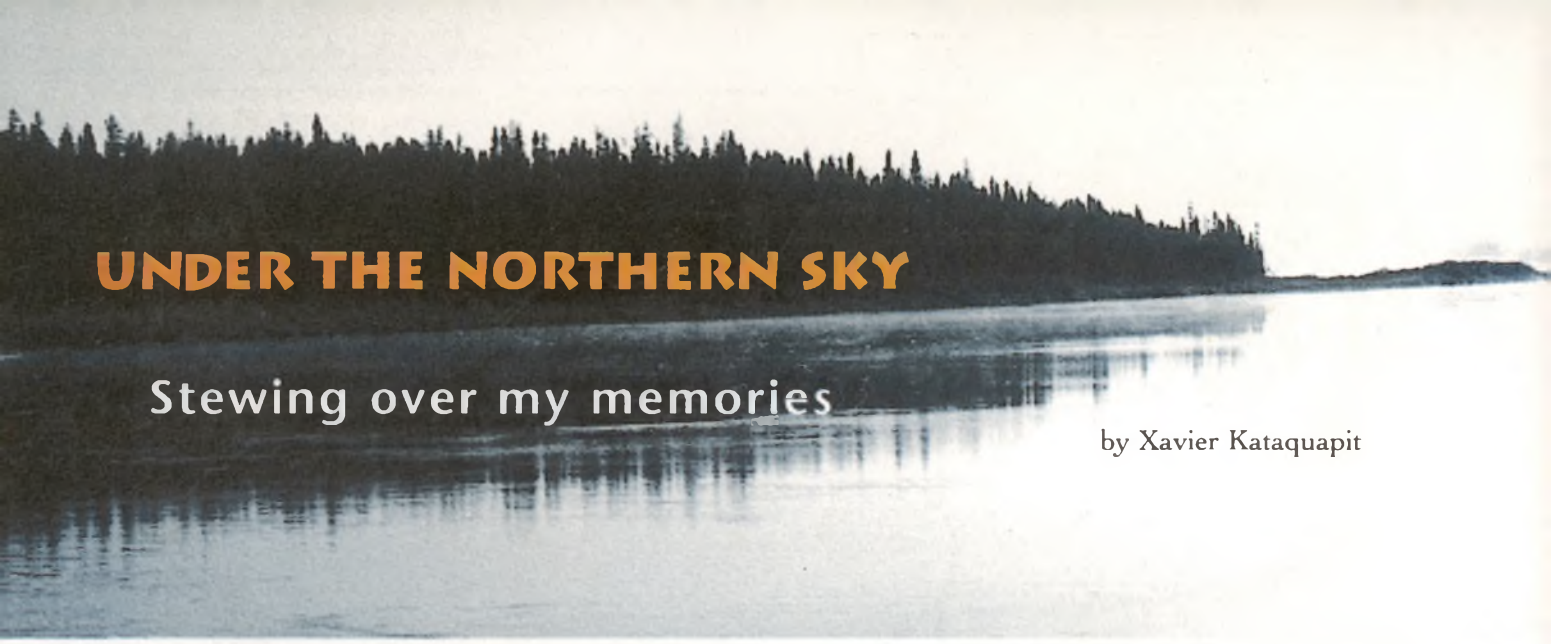

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Stewing over my memories

by Xavier Kataquapit

Winter seems to have arrived early this year. The big freeze hasn't hit us yet but there sure seems to be a lot more snow than last year. I recently spent some time finishing up some pre-winter chores that I was not able to complete before the snow fell.

Any type of work in the winter is simply more difficult. Working in a foot of snow, while wearing thick snow boots and layers of warm clothes, takes up a lot of energy. It was gratifying that when I got back from my chores after spending several hours trudging through snow, there was a pot of hot stew of left-over roast beef and hearty vegetables. There is nothing like coming in from the cold after some hard winter work to find a warm house and a nice hot meal.

A cold day and a hot meal bring back a lot of memories. Just about every day of my childhood in the winter time was spent playing in the great white banks of snow around our home in Attawapiskat and then heading in for a hot meal that mom had prepared. Dad always kept the house warm by feeding the wood stove. Much of the time he overdid it as he always preferred the place to be hot rather than warm. To my parents it was better to be too hot because as soon as you stepped out, you were more apt to stay warm for a longer period of time.

As my brothers and I sat down for our hot meal, it felt good to get out of damp winter clothes and to free our heads and hands from restrictive clothing. While seated at the table we could feel the warmth emanating from the wood stove. It felt refreshing and cozy to sit around the table in the kitchen waiting for mom's meal. Our home was like a small pocket of warmth in a world of cold outside. We were surrounded by the fragrance of mom's pot of food, the scent of fresh pine logs and the fire from our stove.

In winter, our food mostly consisted of wild meats that were easily gathered in our community at this time of year. The moose hunts take place in the autumn, the fall goose hunt brings in some geese, the spring goose hunt is a big provider and the winter caribou hunts start after freeze up has made the ground hard enough for travelling.

So it was not just availability but the ability to transport food that made these traditional sources of food more accessible. It was more practical to transport a caribou or two in minus-20 degree weather on a sleigh over snow than trying to move many geese quickly over water or mushkeg in warm spring temperatures. The cold weather actually was a benefit to our way of life by allowing us to freeze our food for transport or store our meats for long periods.

The hot meals mom cooked were unadorned and non-spiced. These dishes included butchered goose with rice or dumplings, caribou stew with carrots and potatoes or a base of fried moose meat and onions that became a thick stew. In fact, the only additional ingredient to the meat was salt and pepper. To us the taste of plain moose, goose or caribou was enough to whet our appetites.

I believe that eating wild meat is an acquired taste that people grow to enjoy over a long period of time. In my case, moose and caribou is associated with cold winter days and hot stews served with a cup of fresh hot tea and a loaf of bannock. Those days of mom's meals and our time around the kitchen table always come to mind when I dig into a hot stew.

Out on the land, traditional food was prepared using these basic recipes. On a hunting trip, all one needed was a pot big enough to serve a small group of people. Whatever wild meat was available was cut up into a pot of water and cooked along with rice, oats or dumplings and then served hot.

In cold weather, any source of heat is valuable and drinking hot gravy was a great source of nutrition and warmth. I have heard many elders tell me that in the past, when the family's supply of tea ran out, people drank the gravy from the pot of food to go with their meals. Back then, a leftover pot of gravy was treated in much the same way as a pot of tea. There were a few occasions when I travelled out on the land with some traditional older members of my extended family and they thought nothing of dunking their mug into a pot of caribou or goose gravy to have a cup of hot liquid stew.

These days when I sit down to a beef or chicken stew it occurs to me at times that it would be just great to dip my mug or cup into the pot of gravy for a hearty drink. I might just do that the next time a stew pops up.

Louisa Diamond

March 29, 1921 to December 6, 2007

Great great grandmother Louisa Diamond was born in Rupert's House on March 29, 1921, to Rosie Moar and adopted by Anderson Jolly. She was the eldest of nine children. She was raised on the land and schooled in Fort George where she learned to read and write Cree and English.

On June 29, 1939, she married George Diamond, son of Walter and Mary Diamond. Louisa and George went on to have 13 children, 49 grandchildren, 77 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren. She shared her life with George for 67 years, and they celebrated their 65th anniversary with a giant family gathering.

Louisa was a trapper and a hunter for many of her 86 years. She loved her life in the bush even though it was never easy. She would often tell of the times when her, George and the family would have to shoot dangerous rapids on the Nottaway River every spring on the way home to Waskaganish. Later in life, she was at her happiest at her camp in Nooskan, smoking fish and picking berries, which she would give away to family and friends. Louisa was also an expert seamstress and spent many hours sewing mittens and moccasins to give away as gifts. When she was still young and strong, the work on her mittens and moccasins started with the skinning, curing and tanning of many moose hides. Her spirit and love was sewn into every stitch.

She was also a master storyteller, a historian and an expert on the Cree language. Her knowledge of the Cree way of life was much sought after, even into her 80s. The day before she passed on, the school called to ask for her help on a Cree word.

She loved to socialize with her dear and lifelong friend Josephine. They would attend dances and other community events, many times late into the night.

She lived a simple life. Yet she made it rich with stories that entertained and taught many who met her. Friends and family loved hearing her tell of her and George's first funny experiences on their hunting grounds and in the small towns in Southwestern Ontario.

Most of her long and fruitful life was spent with her family in the bush. She enjoyed sharing her home with her many grandchildren. Her home was usually full and noisy during holidays and special occasions. The grandchildren, her pride and joy, would fill her home with loud laughter. Only later in life would she complain about the noise they made.

Louisa was a believer for many years and attended church services late into her life, sharing her testimony with others. She loved to sing Cree and English hymns, accompanying herself on an accordion. She only stopped playing it when the keys gave out.

Louisa spent a few of her last days in a hospital where she was given a choice of recovering either there or at home; she chose home and used the time left receiving visitors, advising people and giving gifts away.

Louisa Diamond will be remembered for her wisdom, strength, generosity, respect, patience and undying love and kindness to all.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to George Matthew and my daughter Caroline on the birth of their baby girl, Cherish-Joy on Nov. 16th, 2007 weighing 8lbs 13oz @ 6:26pm in Val-d'Or. Take good care of her and God bless you all. (from your Mom, Doris & your siblings from Whap.)

Congratulations to Eddie & Savannah Lameboy on the birth of their twin baby boys on Dec. 3rd 2007. From Doris & kids from Whap.

BIRTHDAYS

We would like say happy b-day to my sister Hattie Maggie Longchap on Dec 27/07. May you have a wonderful b-day. I love you sis! Take care & love you always, your babysister all the way from Wask. Rachel and Ryan Erless.

Happy 17th Birthday to the beautiful Krista Blackned, from Waskaganish. Love, Mom, Dad, and Marysarah.

I wanna wish my bro, Ron Sheshamush a happy birthday on Dec. 22nd and many more to come. (from your big sister, Doris from Whap). Doris Sheshamush

Happy Birthday to Adrian James Herodier on December 10, 2007! Happy Birthday Bro! Have a good one, but don't overdo it if u are still there, k! Remember too, there is always something better around the corner if u look and search for it! Big Bro! Chris

We would like to say happy b-day to my mom Emma Longchap on Dec 7/07. She must be somewhere in the bush...happy b-day Mom and many more to come. Thank you for everything. Miss you, with love Rachel and Ryan Erless.

Birthday greetings!!!!! I would like to wish my niece sonia baribeau a happy 21st birthday on December 2...May you be blessed with more birthdays...enjoy your day...I hope you had a wonderful time in Montreal on your birthday....I had a wonderful time with your kids - they kept me very busy!!! I would also like to wish my sister Mary Baribeau a happy ?????? Birthday on December 10.....Don't worry, I will not reveal your age....hope you have a wonderful time on your birthday and many more birthdays to come!!!!! I love you guys so much!!!!! With lots of love, Stephanie xoxoxoxo.

Birthday wishes to my beautiful grandma, Charlotte Wapachee, Dec 15, 2007. Happy birthday grandma. We love you so much. As I look up to you, you're the greatest, coolest grandma and great grandma that we could have asked for any other grandma than you. You're sweet, gentle, kind, warm and beautiful like a rose. We just love to be surrounded by you grandma and we miss you a lot when we don't see you for a while. Your wisdom of words brings a lot of knowledge to us, when we ask questions about the Bible. Thank you grandma and we appreciate every moment you thought of me and my children. Happy birthday to the coolest grandma & the greatest. God bless you and have a great day. From: Irene Mianscum & my family. xoxoxox

To the love of my life, Larry Salt, jr. His birthday is on December 14. Happy birthday baby, I love you so much. Enjoy your day!!! And your gift, I hope you like it. Don't party too hard, now..... your girl, Olivia Couchees, oxoxoxoxox-oxoxoxoxoxoxoxo and many more.

PERSONALS – 302

To our dear mother Mary Lucy...Mama, we're so happy to know everything went well with your surgery in Montreal, and that you are getting stronger n stronger everyday, and that you'll soon be home with us! We were glad to be by your side during this experience, it showed us how much we still need our mother. We love you and miss you n your cooking! lol...love from al your children and grandchildren... xoxoxo

To my friends and family in Waswanipi Quebec. I want to say that I miss you all, I think of you's all the time...Wil, there will come a day when I will come home and be with you. I love you with all my heart, you are the bestest sister (only sister) that I have. Let mom know that I will come home to look after you. If it weren't for you and your family I wouldn't have had a place to go and for that I am very grateful for accepting me into your family. I think and pray for you everyday. I miss you guys so much. Lotsa super lubbin headin yer way! I'll very most likely see you's during Christmas. Lubbin, Lubbin…….. Agnes <3

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to my dear friends & classmates: Judy Kanatewat fr: Chiss, Candice Mattawashish fr: Mist, Patricia Trapper fr: Waswa, and Shannon Whiskeychan fr: Waska. Hey! Shannon, I didn't have to ask you how to write your last name, lol. Well we did it girls we made it all the way to the end of our training in Sexytarial studies lol oups! I mean Secretarial studies lol. Well I had a great time with you girls this past year. And it was an honour and appreciated from the bottom of my heart to get to know you all. I'll keep all the good memories in my heart so preciously. I'll miss being in class with you girls. We had ups and down in our past year but we kept our heads high and encouraged each other to stay in class. And most of all, I'll miss the good laughs, especially as we had a clown in our class coming up with good jokes or stories that were funny - you know who I'm talking about. Hope we will keep in touch by mailing each other or text messaging too, lol... Good luck in your future job hunting in your community. Wish you the best. Again congratulations! God bless you. From: Irene Mianscum fr: Waswa, Rep of the class.

I wanna say "CONGRADS" to my fellow classmates & friends for finishing the course of Secretarial Studies in Waswanipi. To: Candice Mattawashish, Irene Mianscum, Patricia Trapper & Shannon Whiskeychan. Well, what can I say girls, we've been together for over a year. Our last class together was the saddest day. I know we'll see each other sometimes out there. Somewhere, who knows where, I'll see you when I see you, but it won't be the same...lol. I know it was hard & tough at times, some of us wanted to quit, but WE DID IT GIRLS...2 THUMBS UP 4 US...LOL. I'll miss our laughs in class, your senses of humour, our jokes & our talks. Once Again Congratulations, GIRLS!!! Love in friendship! Judy K.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS – 301

We would like to say Have a very Merry X-Mas & Happy New Year, and many happy memories to our Families, Friends & Relatives in Chisasibi & Waswanipi. From: Maryanne, Hugo, Bessie-Jane, Melissa, Elden, Titus & Tyler Sam (chisa).

Christmas is a special time of year that is meant to spend time with your loved ones. We, the people that are fortunate to spend another holiday season with the ones we love and hold most dear. We should also remember those who had lost a loved one in the past year. It's really hard to think about having a good time without but in the time we will heal our broken hearts. Merry Christmas to all and may your new year be happy and prosperous from a cree in the James Bay Cree territory.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMNETS

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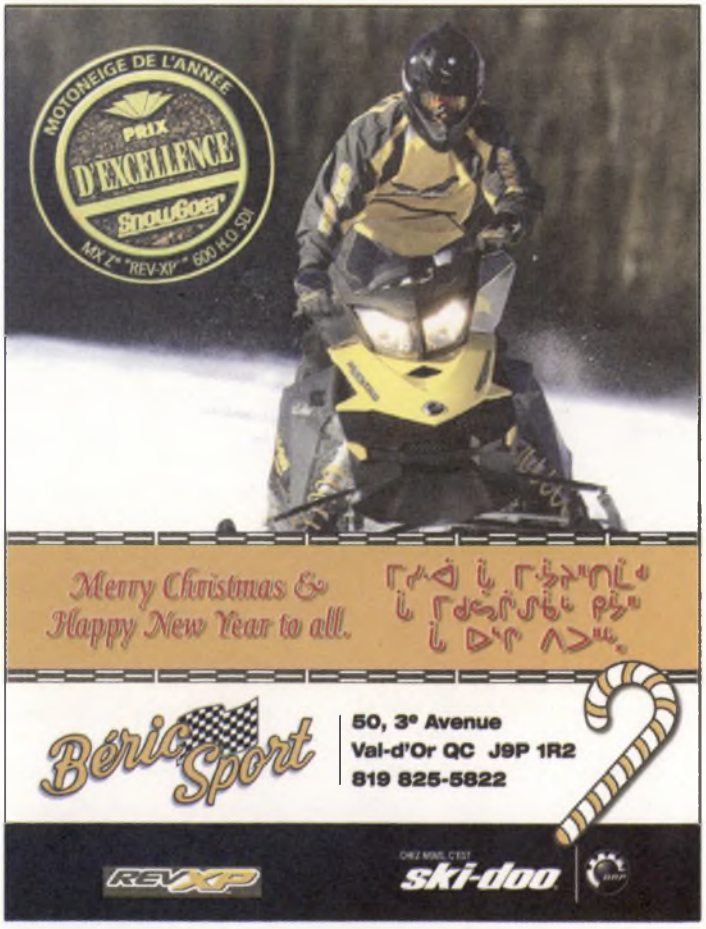

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Have a wonderful and prosperous New Year 2008!

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The Board of Directors and staff at Niskamoon Corporation would like to wish the Cree Nation a Happy New Year!

May the New Year be filled with happiness, health, and peace for everyone.

Best wishes to all!

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